

MYSORE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SIXTH DAY.

Friday, 1st March 1963.

The House met in the Assembly Hall, Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore,
at Four of the Clock.

MR. SPEAKER (SRI B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA, B.A., B.L.) in the Chair.

CONDOLENCE REFERENCE

Re: the Demise of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Ex-President of India.

MR. SPEAKER.—It is with a sense of deep sorrow that I have to make a reference to the passing away of one of our greatest leaders, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. His life has been so closely intermingled with the political life of the country that any account of the former would be merely a part of Indian History.

Born in 1884, he had a brilliant scholastic career. Deep interest he had in the welfare of the people of the country evidenced itself in the student movements and in certain reformist tendencies in ancient Hindu customs. His association with the Indian National Congress dated from the year 1906 when he served as a volunteer in a session held in Calcutta. He joined as a Member of the Congress in 1911 from which date till the day of his death he remained a Member. The starting point however, of his activities which have left a mark on the various events that have happened in India since then dated from the year 1916 when he first came into contact with Mahatma Gandhi. Soon thereafter, he had an occasion to exhibit his anxiety to devote himself to the service of the people which was to actuate his conduct throughout his life in the Champaran Movement. This movement, which ended in a great victory for the first experiment conducted in Gandhian methods of Satyagraha, to resist tyranny brought Dr. Rajendra Prasad in close contact with

(MR. SPEAKER)

Mahatma Gandhi. This association with the Mahatma was to last till the last date of Mahatma Gandhi's life. The Bihar earthquake and the floods which followed afforded yet another opportunity for Dr. Rajendra Prasad to come to the rescue of suffering humanity. In fact his whole life amounted in various ways to a dedication in the cause of the oppressed and the suffering. In 1931 Dr. Rajendra Prasad was chosen as the President of the Indian National Congress. At a time when the Congress was divided upon the resignation from the presidentship of Subhash Chandra Bose, his name was again suggested and once more he was chosen as the President of the Congress. This honour was to be conferred on him yet a third time in the year 1947. It is however, not merely as President of the Congress that he has left his impress on the political life of the country. It would be no exaggeration to say that every day and every minute of his life was a dedication to the cause of the people of the country whom he loved so much. There is no single episode in the history of our motherland over the last 50 years with which he has not intimately connected. Though suffering from different health he courted arrest on a number of occasions. Even at the cost of his health he toured the length and breadth of the country, sometimes seeking to settle differences among the Congressmen but more often trying to organise the Satyagraha and Non-co-operation movements as well as to mobilise relief measures for people who were stricken by natural calamity or by oppression and tyranny. When the interim Government was formed in the Centre in 1947, he was one of the Congressmen selected to be in the Cabinet. He, however, preferred to work in large fields and he was the automatic choice as the President of the Constituent Assembly. When the question of filling up the office of the first President of the Indian Union had to be decided, his selection was unanimous and universally acclaimed.

His whole life was an open book. Coming from a very orthodox Kayashta family he continued to be deeply religious till the last days of his life. He had great faith in the values of Indian tradition and Indian culture. Yet he was not a bigot but actuated by an outlook of humanism and liberalism. He was one of the first to take up an attack against untouchability. He was one of those who combined in himself an appreciation of true Indian culture with an equal appreciation of modern values. His life was a happy synthesis of the two. He was gentle in outlook yet strong in his convictions. He was always ready to listen to the other man's point of view. But this did not make for any weakness in his conduct. He was courteous to the lowest and the meanest and treated every human being whatever his station with respect and humility. To meet him and talk to him was to meet and talk to the great soul. It was an education in itself. He was perhaps the perfect gentleman.

As the first President of India he laid down traditions which will stand for all times. Though the office was that of a Constitutional head of State his opinion, his ripe experience and his views were always in demand. His advice was always sought after. Where he found that certain policies did not meet with his approval in his personal capacity, he had no hesitation in giving expression to that without at the same time bringing about any disharmony between the Government and the President. It was a most delicate task that he had to undertake and when he laid down his high office, the tributes paid to him from all sections of the Parliament and from all parts of the country bear ample testimony to the success that he made of that office. When he retired from the office of President it was taken for granted that he would continue to give his wise counsel to those who were at the helm of affairs and who always regarded his advice, with the greatest respect. It is indeed a great loss to the country that at this juncture when we are facing a crisis and when decisions of vital importance to our future have to be taken, his advice should not be available. In his death we have lost one of the greatest sons of our motherland.

I am sure I am expressing the sentiments of each one of you in moving the following resolution:—

“This house deeply mourns the passing away last night at Patna of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, former President of India. His services throughout his life to the country, his leadership and active participation in the struggle for Independence, his abiding love for the motherland and for every one of her people, his qualities of unostentation, patent simplicity and broad humanity, the highest traditions which he laid down as the first President of India have all contributed to make his life a part of Indian History. This House conveys to the members of his family their sincere condolences.”

Mr. SPEAKER.—It would have been proper to adjourn the House without transacting any business. We are deeply immersed in sorrow. But at the same time, there is one technical difficulty that the date for the presentation of the Budget has been fixed by the Governor under Rule 159 and that there are attendant circumstances of which the Members are all fully aware that the Budget which has been printed for presentation has to be absolutely secret till it is presented to the House. But under these circumstances and other circumstances which I do not wish to divulge, I feel that it would be proper to have the Budget presented today, because I have no right to change the date. I suppose the House agrees to this resolution unanimously.

Hon'ble MEMBERS.—Yes, Sir.

(Hon'ble Members stood in silence for a minute)

Mr. SPEAKER.—Now I call upon the Hon'ble Minister for Finance to present the Budget and adjourn the House without transacting any other business.

I suppose I have the concurrence of the House.

Hon'ble MEMBERS.—Yes, Sir.

(SRI B. D. JATTI stood up)

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್. ಗೋಪಾಲಗೌಡ.—(ತೀರ್ಥಹಳ್ಳಿ) ನನ್ನ ವಿರೋಧ ಇದೆ, ಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ಇದಕ್ಕೆ.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I have called upon the Hon'ble Minister. After that is over, I will hear the Hon'ble Member if it is necessary.

(SRI S. GOPALA GOWDA persisted in speaking)

Mr. SPEAKER.—May I know if you have given concurrence to the passing of the Resolution ?

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್. ಗೋಪಾಲ ಗೌಡ.—ಹೌದು, ಹೌದು.

Mr. SPEAKER.—With regard to the views regarding the adjournment of the House, I will hear you after the Budget speech, if necessary. This will be on record.
